

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD JA

SUBJECT: ASST SECY BELL JAN 11-14 VISIT

REF: (A) TOFAS 5, (B) TOKYO 0509

1. SUMMARY. ALL MEETINGS HELD AS PLANNED IN MOST OPEN AND CONGENIAL MANNER ON ALL SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, DESPITE THORNY ISSUE OF CITRUS CHEMICALS ON WHICH BLUEPRINT FOR A SOLUTION WAS ACHIEVED. MAJOR EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON CONTINUATION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DIALOGUE IN

SPIRIT OF THE ABE-BUTZ UNDERSTANDING OF AUG 1975. STRESS WAS LAID ON MAKING THE FIRST YEAR OF THIS UNDERSTANDING A SUCCESS VIA FULL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 14 MIL TON TARGET.

OBVIOUS THAT ABE-BUTZ ACCORD FOLLOWED BY USSR AGREEMENT, TOGETHER WITH US POLICY OF FULL PRODUCTION TO MEET MARKET NEEDS, HAVE GREATLY REDUCED JAPAN'S APPREHENSIONS RE STABILITY OF SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, EQUALLY APPARENT IN DISCUSSIONS THAT SUPPORT FOR INCREASED FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR COMBINATION OF REASONS INCLUDING SECURITY, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOTIVATION STILL EXISTS,
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SUPPORTED BY CLOSE TO \$2.5 BILLION IN RICE SUBSIDIES ALONE.

INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL RESERVES FOR FOOD SECURITY SEEMS TO HAVE WANED IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. BUT NATIONALLY THE 1976 BUDGET PROVIDES FOR A START IN SOYBEAN AND FEEDGRAIN STOCKPILING WHICH TOGETHER WITH THE BUMPER RICE CROP AND 2.3 MONTHS OF WHEAT PLACES JAPAN WELL ALONG ON ITS OWN RESERVES PROGRAM. THE TIMING AND STRENGTH OF THE EXPECTED ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM JAPAN'S WORST POST WAR RECESSION SEEMS TO BE THE OVERRIDING DETERMINANT AT PRESENT OF AGRICULTURAL IMPORT NEEDS.

2. IN MEETING WITH MIN ABE HE (ABE) MENTIONED THAT BILATERAL TRADE NOW VERY STABLE, ASSISTED BY THE ABE-BUTZ UNDERSTANDING; KIND OF A MEMORABLE ARRANGEMENT THAT DREW MUCH FAVORABLE COMMENT IN JAPAN. HE APPRECIATED AND PAID HIGH RESPECT TO THE USSR AND POLISH AGREEMENTS, ASKING IF JAPAN'S PLAYED A ROLE. ALSO EXTENDED THANKS FOR KINDNESS EXTENDED TO HIM BY SEC BUTZ AND LATER TO THE EMPEROR'S VISIT. SAID BALTZ FAMILY IN TOKYO NOW, WOULD VISIT THE IMPERIAL PALACE AND HE HOPED TO SEE THEM IF TIME PERMITTED. STRESSED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY TALKED WITH MHW MIN TANAKA MANY TIMES RE CITRUS ISSUE SINCE MEETING WITH SEC BUTZ. HIS DIRECTOR GENERALS HAD DISCUSSED DETAILS AND MHW NOW TAKING EXCEPTIONAL APPROACH TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. IT IS CLOSELY RELATED TO STIPULATION IN JAPAN LAW, VERY TECHNICAL AND NEED TO TACKLE SYSTEMATICALLY. SO MHW HOPES TO CULTIVATE A NEW APPROACH.

ASST SECY BELL SAID THE ABE-BUTZ UNDERSTANDING DID LEAD THE WAY, WAS FIRST OF ITS KIND AND APPRECIATED BEING ABLE TO WORK OUT FIRST WITH JAPAN, OUR BEST CUSTOMER. SEC BUTZ HAD FOND MEMORIES OF HIS VISIT AND ENJOYED SHOWING THE EMPEROR AROUND THE ILLINOIS FARMS. WAS CONFIDENT WE WOULD GET THE CITRUS PROBLEM WORKED OUT WITH HIS SUPPORT WHICH MOST APPRECIATED. SAID WE CERTAINLY WISHED TO MAKE THE FIRST YEAR OF THE ABE-BUTZ UNDERSTANDING A SUCCESS. OUR THANKS FOR HIS COOPERATION AND HOPED HE COULD AGAIN VISIT THE U.S.

3. VM MIYOSHI IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING STATED HOW MUCH MIN ABE APPRECIATED THE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH USDA. SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF MORE FORWARD LOOKING POLICY IN JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURE AND ABE-BUTZ AGREEMENT FULFILLED THE FIRST OF MIN ABE'S IMPORTANT PROMISES AND THESE ACTIONS STRONGLY SUPPORTED IN THE DIET AS WELL. OPPOSITION HAS SAID ABE-BUTZ ACCORD WHOULD BE MORE CLEAR-CUT (IN WRITING), BUT MIN ABE STATED THAT US-JAPAN RELATIONS NOT SAME AS US-USSR, CAN PROCEED BASED ON PROMISES AND OPPOSITION WAS QUIETED. ALSO RECALL THAT TAKEDA WAS IN WASHINGTON ON YOUR (BELL'S) RETURN FROM USSR, YOU AND SEC BUTZ PERSONALLY ASSURED HIM THAT FORMAL

ACCORD NOT NEEDED AND THIS ALSO HELPED WITH DIET. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP STILL GOING MOST SMOOTHLY - EXCELLENT. OF COURSE AGATT THOMASSON, US COOPERATORS, AGATT MATSUOKA IN D.C. AND OTHERS CONSTANTLY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES GREATLY FACILITATES EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. MIN ABE, OF COURSE, MENTIONED THE CITRUS PROBLEM, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MHW, SO WHEN YOU VISIT THEM QUOTE PUSH FORWARD UNQUOTE.

ASST SECY BELL MADE HUMOROUS REFERENCE TO HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN IN JUNE 1975 RE BEEF; JAPAN NOW BUYING MORE SO FELT HE COULD NOW RETURN. MOST APPRECIATIVE OF VM MIYOSHI'S COMMENTS, AGREED WITH ALL HE SAID AND ONLY REAL ISSUE THAT COULD BECOME A POLITICAL PROBLEM AT MOMENT IS CITRUS. KNOW MHW HAS RESPONSIBILITY BUT APPRECIATE MAF HELP. THE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS INDEED A SPECIAL EVENT, FOLLOWING THE EARLIER VISIT OF THE PM AND MIN ABE. BELIEVE THESE VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE YEARS AHEAD. VERY ANXIOUS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE ABE-BUTZ UNDERSTANDING IS A SUCCESS, SO LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERALS RE PROGRESS IN MEETING THE TARGETS. SEEMS LITTLE IRONIC THAT U.S. HAD SURPLUS PROBLEM FEW YEARS BACK - NOT NOW - BUT MAF NOW MUCH INVOLVED IN RICE SURPLUS PROBLEM.

VM MIYOSHI REPLIED THAT WEATHER WAS TOO GOOD LAST YEAR, BUT THEY PLAN TO CONSOLIDATE STOCKPILING EFFORTS FOR THE COMING YEAR. ASST SECY BELL SAID HE INFORMED OF THIS BY AGATT AND APPLAUDED MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION. USDA WANTS TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND THIS PRIMARILY WHY HE IS HERE; A FOLLOW-UP IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ABE-BUTZ TALKS. VM MIYOSHI EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT RE REGULAR VISITS, MENTIONED CLOSEST CONTACT POSSIBLE VIA AGATT TOKYO AND THEIR ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. SECY BELL LASTLY STATED HOPE VM MIYOSHI COULD VISIT U.S. DURING HIS TENURE AS VM. VM WOULD LIKE TO, BUT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY EVENT AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL.

4. MHW MEETING JAN 13 (SEE TOKYO 0509). IN MHW MEETING ASST SECY BELL STATED HE COULD NOT OVEREMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING EARLIEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO FUNGICIDE PROBLEM. MHW EXPLAINED VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY UNDER CURRENT JAPANESE LAW OF APPROVING OPP/TBZ WITHOUT MUTAGENICITY DATA. RECOGNIZING U.S. RELUCTANCE TO DO MUTAGENICITY RESEARCH, MHW EXPLAINED THAT SAID RESEARCH WILL BE DONE BY INDEPENDENT LAB IN JAPAN (AGRIC CHEM RESIDUE RESEARCH INSTITUTE) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT RESULTS COULD BE USED BY FOOD SANITATION INVESTIGATION COUNCIL IN CONSIDERING APPROVAL OF CHEMICALS. SAID RESEARCH WOULD OBIVATE NEED FOR VISIT TO JAPAN OF HIGH LEVEL TECHNICAL TEAM, MHW EXPLAINED. SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE SUCH THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO KEEP IT OUT OF PRESS.

5. SUMMARY CABLE RE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERALS AND
HIGHLIGHTS OTHER GROUP SESSIONS WILL FOLLOW.
HODGSON

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